LOCAL

Strong Backers

Members of the California-Pacific Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church unanimously passed a resolution endorsing the delegate status of the CNMI in the United States Congress. 5

CAMPUS LIFE

Young Writers

Eighteen students are learning about the history of Tinian during a 10-day Young Writers' Workshop. Students will use the information they have learned as part of a book on Tinian history that they are developing. 9

BUSINESS

Tax Breaks

The Commonwealth Development Authority is reviewing the applications of two companies for tax breaks under the recently implemented Qualifying Certificate program. 10

TROPICAL LIFE

Local Talents

At least 100 vibrant CNMI youths received Certificates of Appreciation Friday afternoon for their exemplary contributions in making the first-ever talent show on Saipan a success. 23

LIFE & STYLE

Prayer for Peace

Members of the Shikou Gakuen Mission, who arrived on Saipan over the weekend, attended a memorial service at the Peace Monument in Banzai Cliff. 24

EXCHANGE RATES

	YESTERDAY	PREVIOUS
YEN	119.4500	119.5200
PESO	50.4400	50.2500
HK $	7.7990	7.7999
BAHT	41.4300	41.5000
RUPEE	48.8550	48.8100
WON	1,201.2000	1,201.0000

VIRTUE OF THE WEEK

When a thought is too weak to be expressed simply, simply drop it.

– Marquis de Vauvenargues

SAIPAN Tribune

Volume XII, Issue No. 128 **MONDAY** 1 JULY 2002 www.tribune.co.mp 50¢

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4 governors in one week

Tinian's first governor sits in office—for a day

By JAYVEE VALLEJERA
Staff Reporter

History happened last Friday but for those more attuned to the political workings of the CNMI, that day went by with hardly a ripple in the political fabric of the Commonwealth.

In a span of three days starting Wednesday, the Commonwealth went through several leadership changes, with Friday officially marking the first time ever that somebody from Tinian occupied the highest executive post of the islands.

Senate Vice President Jose Dela Cruz became acting Governor for one day, when then acting governor Paul A. Manglona had to go to Guam Friday on official business.

What made the incident even more interesting was that Dela Cruz is a Democrat—unlike the top three CNMI officials—Gov. Juan N. Babauta, Lt. Gov. Diego T. Benavente and Senate President Manglona—who are all from the Republican Party.

For Dela Cruz, at least, the day was not merely about warming Babauta's desk at the Office of the Governor. As acting Governor, he was the official representative of the Executive Branch during the graduation ceremony of the 18 participants who completed the three-week pre-law course at the Judicial Branch.

This unprecedented chain of events started when Babauta left for Phoenix, Arizona, for the Western Governors Association conference last June 20, leaving behind Benavente as acting governor.

Benavente then had to leave the Commonwealth last June 26 for Palau to participate in an EPA conference on solid waste management, leaving behind Senate President Manglona as the acting chief executive. With Manglona at the Office of the Governor, Dela Cruz took over as the acting Senate President.

With Manglona's trip to Guam last Friday, Dela Cruz slid into Manglona's shoes, taking over as the Commonwealth's acting Governor. As a political pundit at the Legislature had said, who would have thought that, for one day at least, the CNMI will have a Tinian resident as Governor?

The chain of command—a system built to ensure continu-

See4 governors on Page 4

Tourist visa regs in effect

By JOHN RAVELO
Staff Reporter

The regulations governing the issuance of a CNMI's tourist visa or visitor's entry permit is now in effect.

These were adopted by the Department of Labor and Immigration as emergency regulations, based on information obtained from the office of acting Labor and Immigration Secretary Jeff Camacho Friday.

"[The] DOLI further finds that the public interest mandates adoption of these regulations upon fewer than thirty days notice, and these regulations shall become effective immediately after filing with the Registrar of Corporations, subject to the approval of the Attorney General

SeeTourist on Page 4

CPA tries to put fiscal house in order

By EDITH G. ALEJANDRO
Staff Reporter

The Commonwealth Ports Authority's revenue during the first eight months of Fiscal Year 2002 fell short of its original projection, prodding officials to look at a possible conversion

SeeCPA on Page 4

Guam Gov withdraws opposition to Verizon sale

By JAYVEE VALLEJERA
Staff Reporter

Guam Gov. Carl T.C. Gutierrez has withdrawn his opposition to the sale of Verizon Pacifica to the Pacific Telecom Inc. consortium, saying he has determined that it is not in the public interest to oppose the sale.

Gutierrez made known this decision through a petition he submitted to the Federal Communications Commission in Washington, D.C. dated June 26—nine days after he first submitted a petition opposing the sale.

"I have determined that it is not in the public interest to oppose this transfer of control. Therefore, as the Governor of Guam, I hereby withdraw the petition to deny filed June 17," he said.

Gutierrez told the FCC that the concerns he had raised regarding rate integration and the implementation of the Commission's Rate Integration Order for the Pacific territories would be raised in an appropriate Commission forum.

The Governor of Guam had petitioned the Commission last June 17 to deny the applications for consent to transfer control of the licenses of Micronesian Telecommunications Corp. and its subsidiary, GTE Pacifica Inc., from Bell Atlantic New Zealand Holdings Inc. to Pacific Telecom Inc.

MTC and GTE Pacifica Inc. are collectively known on the island as Verizon Pacifica. When it was put up for sale a few months back, the Pacific Telecom Inc. consortium—com-

SeeGuam on Page 4